

former armed faction leader Charles Taylor to influence the elections from prison;

(8) encourages President Donald Trump to appoint an Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs to bolster diplomatic engagement with the Government of Liberia, electoral stakeholders, and civil society and robustly engage with other sub-Saharan African countries and governments;

(9) calls upon the United States Government and international partners, especially election-focused nongovernmental organizations, to continue to support successful elections and Liberia's anticipated historic democratic post-electoral transition of executive power; and

(10) welcomes the visit of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to the United States Congress for her final address as President of Liberia.

SENATE RESOLUTION 267—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2017 AS “NATIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH”

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. HATCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 267

Whereas investment in the education and training of the United States workforce is crucial to the ability of the United States to compete in the global economy;

Whereas collaboration among local educational agencies, community colleges, Governors, local governments, local businesses, employment service providers, and workforce development boards provides for long-term, sustainable, and successful workforce development across traditional sectors and emerging industries;

Whereas, as of September 2017, middle-skill jobs, which require more than a high school diploma but not a 4-year degree, comprise 53 percent of the labor market, but only 43 percent of United States workers are trained at that level, creating a discrepancy that may limit growth in changing industries such as health care, manufacturing, and information technology;

Whereas, in 2014, Congress reauthorized the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) with overwhelming bipartisan support in recognition of the need to strengthen the focus of the United States on the skills necessary to fill jobs in local and regional industries;

Whereas the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) supports employment, training, and support services for individuals with barriers to employment, including individuals—

- (1) who are out of work;
- (2) displaced by outsourcing;
- (3) looking to learn new skills; and
- (4) with disabilities;

Whereas the more than 550 workforce development boards and 2,500 American Job Centers are a driving force behind growing regional economies by providing training, resources, and assistance to workers who aim to compete in the 21st century economy;

Whereas ongoing State and local implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) provides unprecedented opportunities to develop the skills of United States workers through access to effective workforce education and

training, including the development and delivery of proven strategies such as sector partnerships, career pathways, integrated education and training, work-based learning models, and paid internships;

Whereas, in 2015, programs authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.)—

(1) served nearly 7,000,000 young people and adults;

(2) exceeded employment targets across all programs; and

(3) helped more than 1,500,000 individuals, including English language learners, take classes to gain skills and credentials to help the individuals succeed in the labor market;

Whereas State programs established under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.)—

(1) served nearly 14,000,000 unemployed workers through American Job Centers in 2015; and

(2) are an integral part of the workforce development system;

Whereas workforce development programs will play a critical role in addressing the expected 2,000,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs over the next decade;

Whereas community colleges and other workforce development training providers across the United States are well-situated—

(1) to train the next generation of United States workers; and

(2) to address the educational challenges created by emerging industries and technological advancements;

Whereas participation in a career and technical education (referred to in this preamble as “CTE”) program decreases the risk of students dropping out of high school, and all 50 States and the District of Columbia report higher graduation rates for CTE students, as compared to other students;

Whereas community and technical colleges operate as open access institutions serving millions of students annually at a comparatively low cost;

Whereas the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) supports the development and implementation of high-quality CTE programs that—

(1) combine rigorous academic content with occupational skills; and

(2) served 11,900,000 high school and college students from 2015 to 2016;

Whereas there are nearly 500,000 registered apprentices in the United States, and there is growing and bipartisan support for expanding earn-and-learn strategies to help current and future workers gain skills and work experience;

Whereas federally supported workforce system and partner programs—

(1) have helped the United States rebuild the economy and provide increased economic opportunities; and

(2) provide a pathway into jobs that support families while ensuring that United States businesses find the skilled workforce needed to compete in the global economy; and

Whereas workforce development is crucial to sustaining economic security for United States workers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2017 as “National Workforce Development Month”;

(2) supports Federal initiatives to promote workforce development; and

(3) acknowledges that workforce development plays a crucial role in supporting workers and growing the economy.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution to recognize September as Workforce Development Month.

As technological advances reshape traditional fields and fuel the emergence of new industries, it is imperative that our workforce development system remain agile and flexible in order to educate and train the next generation of workers and those needing additional on-the-job training skills to stay competitive.

In addition, it is vital that we recognize the importance of all career pathways and professional development whether an individual pursues a 4-year degree or seeks to further their education at a community college, through an industry recognized certificate program, or as an apprentice.

In an effort to face this challenge head on, Congress passed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in 2014 with overwhelming bipartisan support. WIOA was signed into law by President Obama and has helped streamline the workforce development system while increasing and strengthening partnerships between regional businesses, workforce development boards, and educational institutions.

In fact, it is these partnerships that have proven to be key to regional success at addressing the workforce needs of businesses. By working together, local businesses and educators can ensure that not only do businesses have access to the talent they need to grow but that those seeking work can find it.

Nationwide, the more than 550 workforce development boards and 2,500 American Job Centers have become a driving force behind growing regional economies by providing training, resources, and assistance to workers aiming to compete in the 21st century economy.

These workforce development boards and American Job Centers work with job seekers and employers across industries ranging from healthcare and information technology to manufacturing and construction.

There are currently nearly half a million registered apprentices across the country, including nearly fifty thousand in California alone.

Bipartisan support for earn-and-learn approaches such as apprenticeships and paid internships is critical for helping future workers gain the skills and experience they need while being able to provide for themselves and their families.

In recognition of workforce development month, Congress reaffirms its support for a comprehensive approach to workforce development, encourages partnerships between industry leaders and educators, and emphasizes the importance of all career pathways in pursuit of economic prosperity.

In closing, during this month it is essential that we acknowledge and commend the professionals who work every day to make these efforts a reality. America's workforce is the backbone of our economy and it is the expertise, dedication, and knowledge of these professionals that has helped develop such a robust system.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution and encouraging the continued growth of our workforce development system.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I have 1 request for committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, September 25, 2017, at 2 p.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal."

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Paul Thomas, a detailee in the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the first session of the 115th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Cathy Glenn and Dave Ahart of the Senate recording studio be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the legislative day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

On Monday, September 18, 2017, the Senate passed H.R. 2810, as amended, as follows:

H.R. 2810

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 2810) entitled "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes," do pass with the following amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018".

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) DIVISIONS.—This Act is organized into six divisions as follows:

(1) Division A—Department of Defense Authorizations.

(2) Division B—Military Construction Authorizations.

(3) Division C—Department of Energy National Security Authorizations and Other Authorizations.

(4) Division D—Funding Tables.

(5) Division E—Additional Provisions.

(6) Division F—Further Additional Provisions.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Organization of Act into divisions; table of contents.

Sec. 3. Congressional defense committees.

Sec. 4. Budgetary effects of this Act.

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATIONS

TITLE I—PROCUREMENT

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Army Programs

Sec. 111. Transfer of excess High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles to foreign countries.

Sec. 112. Limitation on availability of funds for Army Air-Land Mobile Tactical Communications and Data Network, including Warfighter Information Network-Tactical (WIN-T).

Subtitle C—Navy Programs

Sec. 121. Multiyear procurement authority for Virginia class submarine program.

Sec. 122. Arleigh Burke class destroyers.

Sec. 123. Multiyear procurement authority for V-22 joint aircraft program.

Sec. 124. Design and construction of amphibious ship replacement designated LX(R) or amphibious transport dock designated LPD-30.

Sec. 125. Modification of cost limitation baseline for CVN-78 class aircraft carrier program.

Sec. 126. Extension of limitation on use of sole-source shipbuilding contracts for certain vessels.

Sec. 127. Certification of the enhanced multi mission parachute system for the United States Marine Corps.

Subtitle D—Air Force Programs

Sec. 131. Inventory requirement for Air Force fighter aircraft.

Sec. 132. Comptroller General review of total force integration initiatives for reserve component rescue squadrons.

Sec. 133. Authority to increase Primary Aircraft Authorization of Air Force and Air National Guard A-10 aircraft units for purposes of facilitating A-10 conversion.

Sec. 134. Requirement for continuation of E-8 JSTARS recapitalization program.

Sec. 135. Prohibition on availability of funds for retirement of E-8 JSTARS aircraft.

Subtitle E—Defense-wide, Joint, and Multiservice Matters

Sec. 141. F-35 economic order quantity contracting authority.

Sec. 142. Authority for Explosive Ordnance Disposal units to acquire new or emerging technologies and capabilities.

TITLE II—RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST, AND EVALUATION

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Program Requirements, Restrictions, and Limitations

Sec. 211. Mechanisms for expedited access to technical talent and expertise at academic institutions to support Department of Defense missions.

Sec. 212. Codification and enhancement of authorities to provide funds for defense laboratories for research and development of technologies for military missions.

Sec. 213. Modification of laboratory quality enhancement program.

Sec. 214. Prizes for advanced technology achievements.

Sec. 215. Expansion of definition of competitive procedures to include competitive selection for award of research and development proposals.

Sec. 216. Inclusion of modeling and simulation in test and evaluation activities for purposes of planning and budget certification.

Sec. 217. Differentiation of research and development activities from service activities.

Sec. 218. Designation of additional Department of Defense science and technology reinvention laboratories.

Sec. 219. Department of Defense directed energy weapon system prototyping and demonstration program.

Sec. 220. Authority for the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering to promote innovation in the Department of Defense.

Sec. 221. Limitation on availability of funds for F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Follow-On Modernization.

Sec. 222. Improvement of update process for populating mission data files used in advanced combat aircraft.

Subtitle C—Reports and Other Matters

Sec. 231. Competitive acquisition plan for low probability of detection data link networks.

Sec. 232. Clarification of selection dates for pilot program for the enhancement of the research, development, test, and evaluation centers of the Department of Defense.

Sec. 233. Requirement for a plan to build a prototype for a new ground combat vehicle for the Army.

Sec. 234. Plan for successfully fielding the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System.

Sec. 235. Sense of Congress on hypersonic weapons.

Sec. 236. Importance of historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions.

TITLE III—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Subtitle A—Authorization of Appropriations

Sec. 301. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle B—Logistics and Sustainment

Sec. 311. Sentinel Landscapes Partnership.

Sec. 312. Increased percentage of sustainment funds authorized for realignment to restoration and modernization at each installation.

Subtitle C—Reports

Sec. 321. Plan for modernized, dedicated Department of the Navy adversary air training enterprise.

Subtitle D—Other Matters

Sec. 331. Defense Siting Clearinghouse.

Sec. 332. Temporary installation reutilization authority for arsenals, depots, and plants.

Sec. 333. Pilot program for operation and maintenance budget presentation.

Sec. 334. Servicewomen's commemorative partnerships.

Sec. 335. Authority for agreements to reimburse States for costs of suppressing wildfires on State lands caused by Department of Defense activities under leases and other grants of access to State lands.

Sec. 336. Repurposing and reuse of surplus Army firearms.

Sec. 337. Department of the Navy marksmanship awards.

Sec. 338. Modification of the Second Division Memorial.